

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of colorizing an electronic schematic including at least one feature comprising the steps of:
 - identifying a set of features associated with the electronic schematic to be colorized;
 - establishing a color scheme, wherein the color scheme includes a color associated with at least one of the features; and
 - automatically colorizing the feature based on the color scheme.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein each feature includes one or more elements, and wherein the step of automatically colorizing the feature includes:
 - associating an element with one of the features; and
 - automatically colorizing the element based on the color scheme.
3. The method of claim 1, further including:
 - storing the colorized schematic in an electronic format.
4. The method of claim 3, further including:
 - obtaining a revised electronic schematic;
 - comparing the schematic to the revised electronic schematic to determine revised portions and non-revised portions of the revised electronic schematic;
 - colorizing the non-revised portions based on the stored colorized schematic;

associating an element from the revised portions with one of the features; and
automatically colorizing the element based on the color scheme.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of associating an element with one of the features includes:
selecting a feature; and
selecting at least one element on the schematic to be associated with the selected feature.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of selecting at least one element on the schematic includes:
selecting at least one element in a visual representation of the schematic.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of selecting at least one element on the schematic includes:
entering one or more labels associated with the elements.

8. A computer-readable medium including instructions for performing a method of colorizing an electronic schematic including at least one feature comprising the steps of:
identifying a set of features on the schematic to be colorized;
establishing a color scheme, wherein the color scheme includes a color associated at least one of the features; and
automatically colorizing the feature based on the color scheme.

9. The computer readable medium of claim 8, wherein each feature includes one or more elements, and wherein the step of automatically colorizing the feature includes:

associating an element with one of the features; and
automatically colorizing the element based on the color scheme.

10. The computer readable medium of claim 8, further including the step of:

storing the colorized schematic in an electronic format.

11. The computer readable medium of claim 10, further including the steps of:

obtaining a revised electronic schematic;
comparing the schematic to the revised electronic schematic to determine revised portions and non-revised portions of the revised electronic schematic;
colorizing the non-revised portions based on the stored colorized schematic;
associating an element from the revised portions with one of the features; and
automatically colorizing the element based on the color scheme.

12. The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the step of associating an element with one of the features includes:

selecting a feature; and
selecting at least one element on the schematic to be associated with the selected feature.

10036758-122701

13. The computer readable medium of claim 12, wherein the step of selecting at least one element on the schematic includes:
selecting at least one element in a visual representation of the schematic.

14. The computer readable medium of claim 12, wherein the step of selecting at least one element on the schematic includes:
entering one or more labels associated with the elements.

15. A system configured to colorize an electronic schematic including a set of features, the system comprising:
a processor; and
a memory, wherein the memory includes
a colorization module configured to colorize the electronic schematic.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the memory further includes:
a computer-aided design module configured to prepare the electronic schematic.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the colorization module is software configured to work with the computer-aided design module during colorization of the electronic schematic.

10026758 122701

18. The system of claim 16, further including an output module for providing the colorized schematic to one or more of a display device, a printer, or a storage medium.

19. The system of claim 16, further including an input module for receiving inputs from one or more of a keyboard, a point-and-click device, or a storage medium reader.

20. The system of claim 16, wherein the colorization module is configured to enable the processor to perform the following steps:

identify a set of features on the original electronic schematic to be colorized;

establish a color scheme, wherein the color scheme includes a color associated with at least one of the features;

associate an element with one of the features; and

automatically colorize the element based on the color scheme.

21. The system of claim 17, wherein the colorization module is further configured to instruct the processor to further perform the following steps:

store the colorized schematic in an electronic format;

obtain a revised electronic schematic;

compare the electronic schematic to the revised electronic schematic determine revised portions and non-revised portions of the revised electronic schematic;

colorize the non-revised portions based on the stored colorized schematic;

associate an element from the revised portions with one of the features; and

[illegible]

associate an element from the revised portions with one of the features; and
automatically colorize the element based on the color scheme.

10036758 432701